



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Madison, Wisconsin -- Stephen P. Sinnott, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that John E. Rasch, DOB: 9/8/77, of Madison, Wisconsin, was charged today in a six-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Madison, Wisconsin. Rasch was charged with mail theft and identity fraud. The three mail theft charges each carry a maximum penalty of five years in prison. Two of the identity fraud charges carry a maximum penalty of ten years in prison; the third identity fraud charge carries a mandatory penalty of two years in prison, consecutive to any other sentence imposed in the case.

As alleged in the indictment, from approximately March 2005 to July 2, 2005, Rasch stole mail from residential mailboxes in the Madison area. His thefts included convenience checks from credit card companies, an ATM card, a credit card, and stamped envelopes containing checks payable to various creditors. The indictment alleges that Rasch forged the two stolen convenience checks and obtained approximately \$1,700; he also used the stolen credit card and stolen ATM card to obtain cash and merchandise totaling over \$4,000. Finally, the indictment alleges that Rasch took the stolen checks and changed the names of the payees to make the checks payable

to himself and then attempted to cash one of those checks at the drawer's bank. It was this last attempt, on July 2, 2005, which lead to Rasch's arrest by officers from the Madison Police Department.

United States Attorney Sinnott praised the investigation conducted by the Madison Police Department which lead to this indictment. Prosecution of the case has been assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Elizabeth Altman.

You are advised that a charge is merely an accusation and that a defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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